

Health and Environmental Agency Overview

Grades

8-9

Subject

Health

Duration

2 class periods

Materials

- Access to the Internet or copies of the agency home pages and mission statements
- Copies of the quiz (developed by the student groups)
- Quiz grading key

Objective

TSWBAT identify the primary human health and environmental health roles of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Health, Bureau of Environmental Health and Safety (BEHS), your local health district, and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ).

Set

Copy down the acronyms and proper names of the agencies listed on the board (or overhead). Ask the students “do you know what any of these agencies do?” Which ones are Federal agencies? Which ones are State agencies? Which ones are local agencies?

Instructional Input

Students will work in cooperative groups to research the purpose, goals, and objectives of the above agencies. They will determine the most important facts concerning each agency and formulate a 5 minute presentation about that agency to the class. A graphic organizer should be utilized (drawn on the board, a poster, a handout, or a PowerPoint presentation) in the presentation. The students in the audience should be encouraged to take notes since a quiz will follow the presentations.

After the presentation, the group will answer any questions the class might have about their assigned agency. Also, the group should ask 3-5 questions of the class which deal with information contained in the presentation. Finally, each group will develop 5 questions (short answer, true / false, fill in, and / or multiple choice) to be used on a class quiz over these agencies. The answers to the questions should be provided by the group.

Extended Practice

Invite the students to list the primary activities/responsibilities of these agencies. Create a table on the board listing the similarities and differences of the agencies. Have the students provide categories for comparison, and then list the agency comparisons on the table.

Evaluation

Students should evaluate their fellow group members on their level of cooperation and quality of participation in the group's research, presentation, and preparation of quiz questions using a Likert scale (1=poor, 5=excellent). The average of these scores should be entered as the participation portion of the student grade for this project.

The class will be evaluated using the questions prepared by each presenting group. Preview the questions to make sure that they are not too obvious or too ambiguous. Omit any outliers. Prepare the key from the answers provided by the groups.

Closure

Correct the quizzes as a class.

Resources

EPA Web site ("About the EPA")

<http://www.epa.gov/epahome/aboutepa.htm>

ATSDR Web site (link to "ATSDR FAQs" and About "ATSDR")

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/>

CDC Web Site ("About CDC")

<http://www.cdc.gov/aboutcdc.htm>

Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Health, Bureau of Environmental Health and Safety

<http://www2.state.id.us/dhw/BEHS/index.htm>

IDEQ Web site

<http://www2.state.id.us/deq/>